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INFORMATIONAL LETTER #2000-13

DATE: October 12, 2000

TO: ALL IDAHO NURSING FACILITIES

FROM: DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Interim Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

SUBJECT: **STANDING-ORDERS PROGRAMS FOR INFLUENZA AND PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATIONS**

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are coordinating efforts to promote the use of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines for adult residents in nursing facilities. In collaboration with HCFA's contractors and the Peer Review Organizations (PROs), a model standing-orders program is being developed and implemented in nine pilot States to improve immunization delivery to nursing facility residents. Idaho was selected as one of the pilot states, and PRO-West (Idaho's PRO) is directing this project in cooperation with several nursing facilities throughout the state.

Because vaccination standing-orders programs have been shown to improve vaccination rates in adults, we are urging nursing facilities to consider standing-orders programs for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines. We would also like to remind facilities that Medicare pays for influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations provided to nursing facility residents with Medicare Part B coverage.

The CDC Fact Sheet is enclosed for information on standing-orders programs for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines. If you would like to know more about the standing-orders programs or need information on setting up a program, contact either Kurt Stevenson, M.D., or Connie Lowder, R.N., at PRO-West at (208) 343-4617.

DR/nah
Enclosure

cc: Pro-West
Idaho Health Care Association

DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Interim Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards